

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: **Briere et al.**
Appl. No.: **09/553,413**
Filed: **April 20, 2000**
For:

Group Art Unit: **1722**
Examiner: **Davis, R.**

March 21, 2001

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)**

RECEIVED
MAR 22 2001
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700

Sir:

Attached is a list of documents on form PTO-1449 together with copies of each identified document. Also enclosed is a translation or a concise explanation of each non-English language document. It is requested that the Examiner consider these documents and officially make them of record in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and Section 609 of the MPEP. By submitting the listed documents, Applicant in no way makes any admission as to the prior art status of the listed documents, but is instead submitting the listed documents for the sake of full disclosure.

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), before final Office Action or Allowance, whichever is earlier.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the \$180.00 fee specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p), or any fee, or credit any refund, to our Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

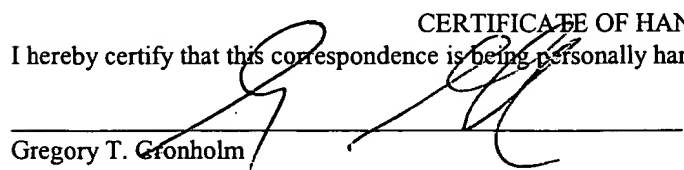
Respectfully submitted,


Gregory T. Gronholm
Registration No. 32,415

CUSTOMER NO. 000826
ALSTON & BIRD LLP
Bank of America Plaza
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000
Tel Atlanta Office (404) 881-7000
Fax Atlanta Office (404) 881-7777

CERTIFICATE OF HAND DELIVERY

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being personally hand delivered to the Examiner on March 22, 2001.



Gregory T. Gronholm